SBARA's Groundplane

February 2008
Volume 9 Issue 2

The monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association Fremont, Ca.

Presidents Message — Steve Wilson, KA6S

Howdy all,

First, How did you all like the new meeting place? I quite enjoyed it. We're a little more free form there, but there is plenty of room. I did get one request from Benny Ng, our contact with Hurricane. He asked that we avoid parking directly next to the building. Anywhere else is fine. These new digs were found through our own Andy Romeril who is an employee at Hurricane.

There was a board meeting this month and quite a bit was covered. One significant topic discussed was ideas for increasing our membership. There were quite a few good suggestions made. These included forming a Volunteer Examiner group to replace what was lost when the Fremont VE group went out of business a while ago. Another was advertising our meetings to more people and coupling these meetings with prominent speakers. Running another class was also mentioned. The bottom line for this discussion was that whatever we decide, the club gets more active in the process, i.e. we have more fun.

I really appreciated the list of speaker topics that was created at last month's meeting. I've already found two speakers who are going to cover topics on the list. To that end, this month's speaker will be Kit Blanke, WA6PWW who will be speaking about TVI & RFI problems that we are likely to experience as we operate our stations. Kit has been the Technical Coordinator for Santa Clara Valley Section on and off for around 20 years (when he wasn't being the Section Manager..). He has been called on multiple times to actually intervene in problems where Amateurs were under assault by their neighbors because of TVI & RFI. If you don't recognize the call sign - Kitt is also the trustee of the 147.015 repeater. So come meet him in person!

I hope to see you all there at our next meeting, February 8, 2008 beginning at 7:30PM. The meeting will be held at Hurricane Electric located at 760 Mission Court in Fremont.

There will be our traditional 6:00pm pre-meeting dinner at Wok City located at 46531 Mission Blvd. in Fremont.

Come and Join Us !!!

SBARA SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
ARRL Member Club Since 1974

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SBARA'S New Meeting Location

Dear SBARA member,

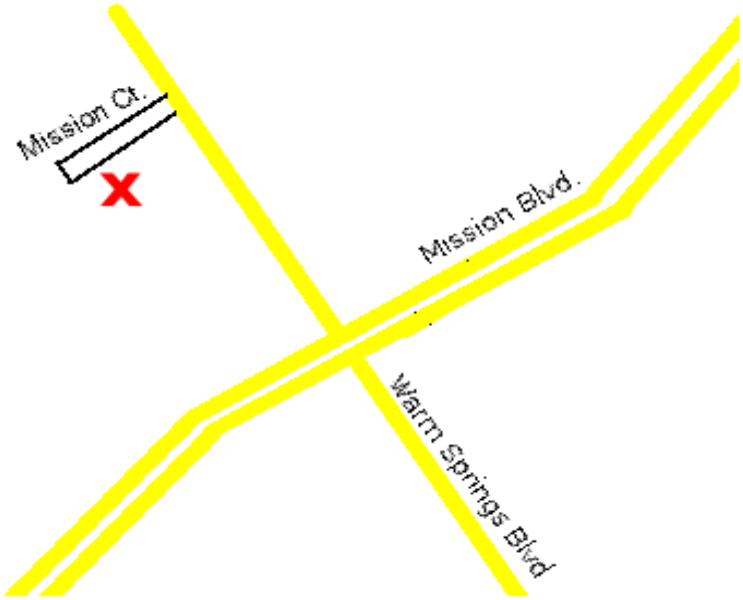
We found a new meeting location for us. Beginning January, 2008, we will meet at Hurricane Electric in **Fremont, 760 Mission Court**: Hurricane Electric generously provides us with a quite nice meeting location – free of cost! This new location is close to the junction of Mission Blvd. / Warm Springs Blvd. See you there! The meeting starts pormply at 7:30 PM.

PS Don't forget you HT!

Talk-In 147.015 +600

73!

Your SBARA board



New Meeting Location:

Hurricane Electric

760 Mission Court

Fremont, CA 94539

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SBARA Field Day 2008 — Al Rendon, WT6K

2008 FIELD DAY K3 RAFFLE ANOUNCEMENT

This years' Field Day raffle prize will be an Elecraft K3/100 assembled and tested. Since its introduction the K3 has received 'WORLD CLASS' reviews, especially from the contesting community. For those of you that do not have the time to go to the Elecraft webpage www.elecraft.com , the K3/100 is a is a 100 watt HF radio covering the 160m through 6m bands. It uses DSP technology and is approaching a software defined radio (SDR). It is capable of being configured with a variety of filters to meet your operating needs. If you have just upgraded or plan to, this would be the ideal radio for your HF station.

Here are the particulars regarding the ticket prices:

FIELD DAY RAFFLE TICKET OVERVIEW
Raffle: June 28, 2008 - 6:00 p.m. PDST Central Park, Fremont, CA

FIRST PRIZE: Elecraft K3/100 100 Watt output 'World Class' Transceiver

Fully assembled and tested; SSB, CW, Digital Modes

Donation: $10.00 for 1 ticket; $20.00 for 3 - Need not be present to win

South Bay Amateur Radio Association - www.sbara.org

We are excited about next Field Day's raffle. The ticket pricing is the same as last year's K2 raffle. We have printed 600 tickets. These tickets are now available for your purchase. To buy a ticket you can either come to the next SBARA meeting, purchase one at the Livermore or De Anza swap meets. The easy purchase option is to e-mail or telephone your request to wt6k@arrl.net / 510 656-2427, Al Rendon-wt6k, including the ticket quantity and your telephone number and Al, wt6k, will arrange for delivery of your ticket purchase.

SBARA wants to thank Elecraft for again generously providing the K3 to SBARA at a discount.

73,
SBARA 2008 Leadership Team

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Treasurers Report, February— Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

Dear SBARA member,

the annual membership fees are due. This fact created a LOT of work for me in the past two months. A database was rebuilt, mailings had to be prepared and sent out, and so on. When I prepared this mailing, I added a little sheet with the membership data of each SBARA member and a note asking you to send it back with corrections along with the check – and this turned out to be a really good idea. About 90 percent of my database entries required some corrections, like new telephone numbers, license classes or call signs.

Most of you have already paid, thanks very much! There is still time until March 31st for our members who haven't paid yet. If you have not received a dues reminder mail, please contact the board, but do not send a check yet.

Your SBARA board members held their first meeting end of January. The budget was discussed and preliminarily approved. The approval is preliminary, because a few changes were requested which will allow us to see better how certain expenses and incomes develop. For example, the raffle for the fieldday is very expensive for SBARA, we have to buy an Elecraft K3 this year, the raffle tickets are printed specifically for this event, and there are other costs like parking or admission fees at swap meetings and flea market places where we sell our tickets. The income is obviously what we earn from our tickets. - So far these costs could not easily be tracked, they were part of the overall fieldday balance. This will be changed now, and we can see if and when the breakthrough occurs. (By the way, we have tickets left, please contact Al, WT6K! The K3 is an awesome radio!)

We also decided the introduction of a „fiscal year". Until now we accounted each expense or income at the date of the transaction. It turned out to be important to separate the expenses and the income for each year properly. If we don't do this, it is very hard to predict the next year correctly – but that's exactly what a budget is supposed to do. From now on we will take extra care that e.g. membership dues, raffle item purchases etc. are accounted in the correct year. Membership dues for 2008 will exclusively be accounted in 2008 (most 2007 membership fees were accounted for in 2006 already, causing a massive discrepancy in expected versus achieved fee income in 2007!).

73!
Bernhard, AE6YN
SBARA treasurer
E-mail: ae6yn@arrl.net

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Primivera Bicycle Ride — Tony Flusche, AB6BR

The Fremont Freewheelers Bicycle Club's "Primivera" Bicycle Ride

SBARA has been asked to provide radio support for the Primivera bicycle Ride on Sunday April 20, 2008. SBARA has provided radio support for Primivera in the past. We lost this event to the Mt. Diablo Radio Club in 2002 when it conflicted with Baker to Vegas.

The bike ride starts and ends at Logan High School in Union City, travels south to Ed Levin Park, East/North up Calaveras Rd to Sunol, east through southern Pleasanton and Livermore to the top of the Altamont pass then west back through central Livermore and Pleasanton, over the Dublin grade next to 580, south down Palomares Canyon to Niles Canyon and back to Logan High School. There are options for rides of 25,40,60 and 100 miles.
We need to cover 5 aid stations, plus net control and as many SAG vehicles as possible, up to 17. The most important SAG areas to cover with Ham Radio are Calaveras Rd and Palomares Canyon as cell phones do not work there. An HT with any outside the car antenna will work for SAG. An HT with a rubber ducky will suffice at all the aid stations except Ed Levin where a mast and gain or beam antenna will be required. We will be using the 147.045 repeater on Sunol ridge.

Morning only or afternoon only shifts are available. Contact Tony Flusche

TonyF@att.net 510-247-3220.

SBARA CW Practice Group — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast),

There was an accident during preparation of the last Groundplane issue. Some information was mixed up and we listed incorrect dates and frequencies for our CW schedule. The correct data for our CW practicing is every:

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4 p.m.

on

21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

We will slow down for you, don't be scared away if somebody is really fast there! Just send a „bk" and your callsign, we will adjust to your skills. We will also be able to listen to and to send SSB, usually we do some short chat in SSB at the end of our practice rounds.

Looking forward to meet you on 15m!

Isaac, KI6DIL, Amanda, AF6YL, Al, WT6K and I would be happy to meet you, too!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

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Making a Long-Life LED Flashlight

Parts List

Cheap LED key-chain flashlight that runs on 2 CD2016 batteries.

(One with an on/off switch is best but momentary will work also).

CR2032 watch battery

5mm 8000+mcd 3.5vdc ultra bright LED

Instructions

Take apart the flashlight case. Depending on the type it may use a screw or snap-catch.

Replace the 2 batteries with the one CR2032 watch battery.

The 2 CR2016 batteries together over drive the LED, the both current and voltage. In order to achieve its high brightness and if lft powered on will burn itself out.

The single CR2032 provides 180 mAh. That is twice the capacity of the two CR2016 in the same amount of space.

The new battery will be slightly under-driving the LED and giving a dim output. That is where the new ultra bright LED comes in, and when sold in a red color it is quite cheap.

Replace the old LED with the new red ultra bright LED. When inserting the new LED you may need to trim and bend it's leads to fit. Using the old LED as a guide can be helpful.

Finish by reassembling your new flashlight keeping in mind the battery's polarity. The larger capacity battery will give you a much longer run time with no danger of ever burning out your LED.

ultra bright LED comes in, and when sold in a red color it is quite cheap.

Replace the old LED with the new red ultra bright LED. When inserting the new LED you may need to trim and bend it's leads to fit. Using the old LED as a guide can be helpful.

Finding Your Hobby On-Line

Whatever your interest you can find it on the internet.

by Susan Ayers Walker

Here's what the article had to say:

"Long before the internet was created, the amateur radio network was the way people from all over the world could connect. Amateur or ham radio operators created vast social networks by talking long distances to other radio enthusiasts, making distant friends and exchanging calling cards. It is this linkage of radio enthusiasts that is ready to help communication flow in case of a disaster or weather emergency. The National Association for Amateur Radio has an informative website with lots of news and information, plus info on getting started or finding a chapter in your area." AARP

Editors Note: Are you 50 years old? - Join the AARP and begin saving!!

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South Bay Amateur Radio Association
Founded 1974
Mailing Address
Box 8401
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401
Web Site — www.sbara.org

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Vice President
Don Amyx, N6DA

Treasurer
Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN/ DL4MHK

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Program Facilitator
Al Rendon, WT6K

Refreshments
Open Position

Board Members at Large
Lloyd Hartshorn, N6DOK
Sam Severs, WS6S
Douglas Wilson, KG6RHG

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW -	147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
WA6PWW -	223.900 –500Khz, PL 107.2
WA6PWW -	442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
K6AIR -	146.940 –600Khz, PL 123.0
K6AIR -	441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m. on 21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

For those who would like to upgrade their licenses, here's an alternative testing opportunity. The Silicon Valley VE Group has scheduled regular test sessions every alternate Saturday morning at the HP facility in Cupertino. The ARRL site shows the following info for this Saturday, information:

Sponsor: SILICON VALLEY VE GROUP
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: MORRIS E JONES
(408)507-4698
Email: AD6ZH@ARRL.NET <mailto:AD6ZH@ARRL.NET>
VEC: ARRL/VEC
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>
Location: HEWLETT PACKARD
19333 VALLCO PKWY
BLDG #2
TESTS START BETWEEN 8-10:30AM
MAP N37 19.490 W122 00.568
CUPERTINO, CA 95014

In addition, these sessions are planned every two weeks through at least the end of May (March 17, April 7, April 21...).

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ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Blvd, 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, KA6IHT, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, WI7YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Howard, W6HOC, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Rick, K3TL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 854-6046
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
John, N5EHP, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ
1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

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(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
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(603) 898-3750
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So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
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IC-756 PRO III All mode Transceiver
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- 101 alphanumeric memories

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Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is February 8th., 2008 @ 7:30pm

Our new meeting location is at Hurricane Electric. The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting and bring your HT !!

Talk-In 147.015 +600

Happy Valentines Day

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